

Paw-Print PRESS

Summer 2025



A black cat with yellow eyes is the central focus of the image. It is looking directly at the camera with a calm expression. The background is slightly blurred, showing some green and brown tones. A white arrow points from the orange circle towards the cat's head.

Meet Mickey

A 21-year old senior who received a second chance.

Story continued inside.



Potter League
Enriching Lives

The Nine Lives (and Then Some) of Mickey

Some souls leave a mark. Mickey is one of them.

When this sleek black cat arrived at the Potter League, we were told he was 21 years old — maybe even older. At first, all we saw was a scared, frail senior who'd lost his home after his guardian fell on hard times and could no longer care for him or the dog he came in with. Mickey was underweight, uninterested in food, and terrified — swatting at anyone who came too close.

But as with so many animals who pass through our doors, Mickey's story wasn't over. It was just waiting for a new chapter.

Our Shelter Medical team quickly went to work. After a complete exam, bloodwork, and supportive care, Mickey was diagnosed with diabetes and started on insulin. Bit by bit, he began to stabilize. He grew more alert, curious, and — most importantly — trusting. The same cat who once kept his distance began asking for pets and head bumps, greeting staff with his signature meow, and rediscovering his love for snacks and catnip toys.

At 21 years young, Mickey became a legend among us — a hospice adoption with a whole lot of life left to live.



And when the right people walked through the door, they saw it too.

His adopters didn't see an old cat. They saw Mickey. And now? "He is loving life," they tell us. "You'd never know his age with how much he explores and follows us around. Honestly, he's aging backward."

Mickey's story is a testament to what's possible when we refuse to give up on the animals who need us most. Thanks to your support, we can provide medical care, comfort, and second chances to animals like Mickey. Because of you, we can be here for guardians facing heartbreaking decisions. And because of you, Mickey is not just surviving — he's thriving.



B-MOD Graduates:

Transforming Lives Through Behavior & Training



Our Behavior Team is dedicated to enriching the lives of shelter animals and those in foster care. Thanks to generous donors, many dogs and cats have "graduated" from our B-Mod program, gaining the skills they need for successful adoptions.

Sahkiy

When Sahkiy arrived at the Potter League, he was overwhelmed by fear. He struggled with meeting new people, often barking at strangers from behind a barrier or on leash, unsure how to navigate the world around him. He lacked confidence — especially outside — and needed slow, thoughtful introductions to build trust.

But we knew there was a sweet, loving dog beneath the fear. With time, patience, and a steady supply of treats, Sahkiy began to let his guard down. He slowly bonded with staff, accepted care from our veterinary team, and even spent time in foster homes to give him a break from the stress of the kennel. He learned to trust, to connect, and eventually — joyfully — wag his tail when friends approached.

After 15 long months in our care, Sahkiy finally found a home of his own. His story is a testament to the power of behavior support, compassionate care, and never giving up. **Because of you, dogs like Sahkiy are not just seen for who they are — but loved for who they can become.**



A Shining Light in a Dark Moment



Diamond is one of those dogs you don't forget. With a heart full of love and a signature wiggle that kicks in the moment she sees you, this gorgeous black beauty gives affection as freely as she receives it — leaning into every cuddle and covering her friends in kisses.

Her guardian was navigating a challenging chapter in her life and, with heartbreaking uncertainty about her family's future, made the compassionate decision to bring Diamond to us. We welcomed her because that's what we're here for.

Diamond was also expecting. She had recently been placed with a family friend when she became pregnant, and we knew she would need a calm, safe place to welcome her puppies into the world. Thanks to one of our amazing foster families, that's exactly what she got.

In the comfort of her foster home, Diamond gave birth to six healthy, roly-poly Lab mix puppies and immediately proved to be a devoted, attentive mother. Her fosters were right there with her every step of the way — offering cuddles, support, and plenty of helping hands from the children in the home who had previously



attended our Camp Happy Tails. The experience was a full-circle moment: kids who spent their summer learning to care for animals were helping raise an entire litter.

The pups were, of course, ridiculously adorable — and they made the most of it. They were the stars of our puppy yoga sessions and appeared at our LoveBash for Animals, charming everyone in attendance. All six found wonderful new homes, including one who stayed right where he was — adopted by the family that helped raise him.



Diamond, too, has found a loving new beginning. Her story is a powerful reminder of how vital our foster network is — not just for pets in need, but for the people who love them. Incredible things happen when we meet both with open hearts and without judgment.

Because of your support, we can say yes to dogs like Diamond — offering comfort, safety, and a soft place to land when life takes an unexpected turn. **We can give them the care they need, the love they deserve, and the chance to shine. And we can continue to be a place of compassion, no matter the circumstances.**

Meredith

Meredith spent six quiet years with a single, beloved guardian before her world was turned upside down. After her person passed away, a family friend tried to help — but the busy home with very young children was overwhelming for a cat who had only known calm and routine. Meredith swatted, hissed, and struggled to cope, making it clear she needed a different environment.

Meredith kept to herself when she arrived at the Potter League, hiding in her cubby and growling or swatting when approached. She wasn't ready to connect — and that was okay. Our Behavior Team met her where she was, offering patience, consistency, and space to decompress. Slowly, Meredith began to relax. She started accepting gentle interaction, cautiously exploring her space, and even enjoying treats during quiet visits.

Over time, she grew more confident — venturing out of her hidey spot, sniffing the air with curiosity, and eventually seeking out soft affection. After four months in our care, Meredith spent an entire hour curled up in a lap — calm, content, and connected.

Today, Meredith is in a loving home, continuing her journey surrounded by patience and understanding. **Her story is a quiet but powerful reminder of what time, trust, and compassion can do.**



Keeping Pets Safe. One Clinic at a Time

Access to veterinary care has never been more critical — or more difficult. With rising costs, long wait times, and a nationwide veterinarian shortage, many pet guardians find getting even the most basic care for their beloved animals more challenging than ever. That's why our low-cost and free Vaccine Clinics have become a vital resource for so many across Rhode Island.

Each month, the Potter League hosts mobile clinics throughout the state, bringing essential preventative care — like vaccinations and microchipping — directly to the communities that need it most. In addition to medical services, we provide pet food and supplies to help families care for their animals at home. It's about more than a single appointment — it's about supporting long-term health and wellbeing.

This year alone, we've already vaccinated 747 animals — a 46% increase over last year's total, and the year isn't even over yet. At one clinic held in partnership with the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, we vaccinated 96 pets. In East Providence, we reached 151. Each of these numbers represents pets kept safe and families supported.

We're incredibly grateful to the community organizations that welcome us into their neighborhoods and recognize the importance of accessible veterinary care. Our partners help make this work possible, and our dedicated staff and volunteers keep it running smoothly — with compassion, skill, and an unwavering commitment to keeping pets and people together.

Together, we're keeping pets safe and cared for — and meeting people where they are, with dignity and compassion.

Because every pet deserves the chance to stay healthy, and every person deserves the tools to help them get there.



Potter League
Enriching Lives

Animal Care & Adoption Center

87 Oliphant Lane
Middletown, RI 02842
401.846.8276 (p)
401.846.0681 (f)

Spay & Neuter Clinic

235 Elm Street
Warwick, RI 02888
401.369.7297 (p)
401.369.7295 (f)

www.PotterLeague.org

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Save the Dates

Newport Pride Parade & Festival |
Newport, RI
June 28

Yappy Hour | Newport, RI
July 20

Dogs Day out at Rough Point |
Newport, RI
August 9

Ragged Island Concert Series |
Portsmouth, RI
August 20

Dog Fest at Mulligans Island |
Cranston, RI
October 4

Heart & Sole Walk for Animals |
Newport, RI
October 18



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